

LARRY SELTWEIGER: I'm Larry Seltweiger and I'm president and CEO of Penn Future, a state wide organization committed to a clean energy economy and sustainable communities. Since 1971 I've been involved in various levels around the issue of coal. I worked for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and oversaw a \$200 million program in the '70s to reclaim strip mines in Pennsylvania. And it's been my experience that many communities in this state and across the country have found themselves without the jobs, pensions or thriving economies that they were promised by big coal companies that went bust. Communities here and throughout the nation have struggled to survive with scarred and subsided lands, poisoned waters and wide spread and severe ecological damage from coal mined on our public lands, often in a single bidder arrangement, causes great harm to the communities while ships go to China to produce cheap goods to undercut U.S. workers and harm our economy. I believe that our coal dependence over the past cannot be our future. Simply stated, it's incongruent with protecting the planet. Reforms of the leasing and production of coal on our national public lands and tribal lands are long overdue. They have not been updated for 30 years and they reflect an urgent priority for any carbon emissions. Government and independent investigators say American taxpayers are being short-changed because of the Federal Coal Program's flaws. These include inconsistencies in estimating coals, fair market value and failure to consider value of exporting the coal. A 2012 independent report estimates that U.S. Taxpayers have lost nearly 30 billion in revenue over the last 30 years because BLM has failed to get fair market value in the coal mined just in the Powder River Basin. As coal companies declare bankruptcy, including even giants like Peabody, American taxpayers are on the hook literally for billions of dollars to clean up and reclaim vast expanses of public lands. Pennsylvania is home to the largest longwall mining operation and the largest coking facilities in the nation, yet we have over 3,000 miles of streams and rivers that have been polluted by mine drainage, and we live with one-third of the abandoned mine lands in the United States. We have seen the old story played over and over again. Coal companies give single bid sweetheart deals, but go bankrupt anyways. And clearly today science is telling us that the problem is much worse than these localized impacts, as coal generated electricity is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. I would like to point out that our President, this week, is meeting with the head of Canada and also Mexico to cut our emissions by 50 percent and that's not

possible if we continue to lease coal in this country. Thank
you.